

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.(Currently Amended) An isolated 47324 nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

a) ~~—— a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 60% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3;~~

b) ~~—— a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 15 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3;~~

e) a) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

d) ~~—— a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;~~

e) ~~—— a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof, under stringent conditions;~~

~~f) b)~~ a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and

c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; and

g) ~~—— a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.~~

2.(Previously presented)The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

3.(Previously presented)A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

4 -5 Cancelled

6.(Currently Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

b) ~~—— a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;~~

~~e) — a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3; and~~

d)b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

comprising culturing the host cell of claim 3 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

7-24 Cancelled

25 (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3.

26. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

27. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a heterologous polypeptide.

28. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

29. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

30. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 26, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

31. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 27, further comprising vector nucleic acid sequences.

32. (Previously presented) A host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule claim 25.

- 33. (Previously presented) A host cell containing a nucleic acid molecule of claim 28.
- 34. (Previously presented) A host cell containing a nucleic acid molecule of claim 29.
- 35. (Previously presented) A host cell containing a nucleic acid molecule of claim 30.
- 36. (Previously presented) A host cell containing a nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.
- 37. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 32 which is a mammalian cell.
- 38. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 33 which is a mammalian cell.
- 39. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 34 which is a mammalian cell.
- 40. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 3 which is a mammalian cell.
- 41 (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising culturing the host cell of claim 35 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.
- 42 (Previously presented) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and a heterologous polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 36 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.